

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2079
INFO AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 0070

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PDEV, J, CA
SUBJ: JAMAICA

REF: OTTAWA 4376

1. SUMMARY. GOC IS FOLLOWING A BUSINESS-AS-USUAL
POLICY TOWARDS JAMAICA AND IS WILLING TO GO AHEAD WITH
ITS AID AND OTHER PROGRAM WHILE RESERVING JUDGMENT
ON NEW MANLEY GOVERNMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBOFF CALLED ON EXTAFF DIRECTOR CARIBBEN DIVISION
(REECE) FOR GENERAL DISCUSSION OF JAMAICA IN POST-
ELECTION PERIOD. THERE WERE NO STARTLING NEW VIEWS
AND FOLLOWING REPRESENTS MAIN POINTS MADE:

(A) REECE NOTED RECENT SPEECH BY MANLEY INDICATING
JAMAICA WOULD NOT ACCEPT IMF ASSISTANCE. SPEECH, ACCORDING
TO REECE, WAS FULL OF ANTI-CAPITALIST, ANTI-IMPERIALIST
RHETORIC BUT DEVOID OF ANY GLARING REFERENCE TO U.S.
"DE-STABILIZATION". GOC IS UNCERTAIN WHETHER SPEECH
WAS NEGOTIATING TACTIC AND WHETHER JAMAICA WILL
EVENTUALLY ACCEPT IMF PROGRAM. MANLEY HAS ALREADY LOST
MIDDLE CLASS, AND SUBSISTENCE CLASS HAS NOTHING TO
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LOSE. BELT-TIGHTENING, IMPORT RESTRICTIONS AND SO ON
DO NOT OVERLY AFFECT PRIMARY MANLEY CONSTITUENCY. THUS,
IT IS POSSIBLE THAT MANLEY WILL FOLLOW AUSTERITY LINE
WITH NO ASSISTANCE FROM IMF.

(B) CANADIAN PROGRAM AID, AS WELL AS LOAN ASSISTANCE
(SEE REFTEL), WILL CONTINUE. MAIN THRUST OF PROGRAM AID,

WHICH TOTALS ABOUT \$5 MILLION, REMAINS DEVELOPMENT OF JAMAICAN SELF-SUFFICIENCY. EFFORTS WITHIN GOC TO REMOVE JAMAICA FROM LIST OF COUNTRIES RECEIVING GOC ASSISTANCE SEEM TO HAVE ENDED, ALTHOUGH CONTROVERSY WITHIN GOC CONTINUES RE WISDOM OF ECONOMIC POLICIES FOLLOWED BY MANLEY. GOC KEENLY AWAITING SIGNING OF REGIONAL TREATY WITH CANADA WHICH WILL FACILITATE ASSISTANCE TO ALL CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES.

(C) MANLEY CABINET CURIOUS MIX OF PEOPLE. "CAPITALIST POSITIONS HAVE GONE TO THE CAPITALISTS, RADICAL MINISTRIES TO THE RADICALS AND MODERATES HAVE THE MODERATE POSITIONS (E.G. FOREIGN AFFAIRS)" REECE SAID. ONLY TIME WILL TELL HOW WELL OR BADLY THE DIFFERENT MINISTRIES ARE MANAGED, AND WHICH TURN OUT TO HAVE THE POWER. BUT ALL IN ALL, GOC REASONABLY PLEASANTLY SURPRISED THAT MANLEY SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN RELATIVELY REASONABLE IN FORMING HIS CABINET.

(D) CUBAN INFLUENCE SEEMS DOWN AND DOES NOT SEEM TO HAVE PLAYED ANY SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN THE ELECTIONS. THERE WAS NO PARTICULAR ELABORATION OR FURTHER DISCUSSION OF THIS.

(E) JAMAICAN ECONOMY CONTINUES IN GENERALLY BAD SHAPE. TOURISM AND BUSINESS GENERALLY ARE DOWN, MIDDLE CLASS IS DESERTING THE ISLAND, AND MINES OTHER THAN BAUXITE ARE NOT DOING WELL. GOC FORESEES SOME TOUGH YEARS AHEAD FOR JAMAICANS, WHICH WILL BE MADE TOUGHER
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(FOR MIDDLE CLASS AT LEAST) IF IMF AID DOES NOT GO THROUGH. BUT, IN GENERAL, GOC PROCEEDING ON ROUTINE BASIS, AND NOTHING HAS CHANGED RE GOC POLICIES AS A RESULT OF ELECTIONS. IT WILL BE BUSINESS AS USUAL UNTIL MORE TIME HAS PASSED AND MANLEY'S FURTHER PERFORMANCE CAN BE EVALUATED.

2. COMMENT: REECE, WHO WAS REASONABLY FORTHCOMING, MADE IT CLEAR THAT GOC TOOK ELECTIONS IN STRIDE, WILL FOLLOW A WAIT-AND-SEE ATTITUDE BEFORE JUDGING MANLEY.
ENDERS

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